

## Amendment to Claims

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this Application.

### Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for providing printing scale image size and resolution stability control with respect to a digital source image which is associated with a related, validated, data-content flag that describes the actual size of the source image in terms of both dots-per-inch, and number of bits, said method comprising

examining such a source image to detect the presence of such a flag, and  
on detecting such a flag, using the dots-per-inch and bit-number data-content information contained in it to assure that the control printed image size is the same as the source image size.

Claim 2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for providing printing scale image size and resolution stability control with respect to a digital source image described by a data file having a known dots-per-inch characteristic, and a known total number of bits, said method comprising

associating with the source image data file a validated data-content flag which describes the actual size of the source image in terms of both its dots-per-inch characteristic and its total number of bits,

sending this source image data file along with the associated data-content flag en route to a printer,

within that route, and upstream from the printer, detecting the presence of the flag,

and

utilizing the dots-per-inch and bit-number data-content information contained in the flag to assure that the control printed image size is the same as the source image size.

Claim 3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Apparatus for providing printing scale image-size and resolution stability control with respect to a digital source image which is associated with a related, validated, data-content flag that describes the actual size of the source image in terms of both dots-per-inch, and number of bits, said apparatus comprising  
examining structure for examining such a source image to detect the presence of such a flag, and

flag-using structure operatively connected to said examining structure and operable, on the examining structure detecting the presence of such a flag, to use the dots-per-inch and bit-number data-content information contained in that flag to assure that the control printed image size is the same as the source image size.

Claim 4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Apparatus for providing printing scale image size and resolution stability control with respect to a digital source image which is described by a data file having a known dots-per-inch characteristic, and a known total number of bits, said apparatus comprising

associating structure for associating with such a source an image data file a validated data-content flag which describes the size of the source image in terms of both its dot-

per-inch characteristic and its total number of bits,

sending structure operatively associated with said associating structure operable, following the performance of said associating structure, to send the source image data file along with the associated data-content flag en route to a printer, operatively disposed within that route, and upstream from the printer, detecting apparatus for detecting the presence of the associated flag, and

utilizing structure operatively connected to said detecting structure for utilizing the dots-per-inch and bit-number data-content information contained in the flag to assure that the control printed image size is the same as the source image size.